

House File 473 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 473
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 97)

(COMPANION TO SF 350 BY
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 28, 2017)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to high school equivalency programs and
- 2 assessments and including effective date provisions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 259A.1, Code 2017, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **259A.1 Tests Assessment of competency.**

4 The department of education shall cause to be made available
5 for qualified individuals a high school equivalency diploma.
6 The diploma shall be issued on the basis of ~~satisfactory~~
7 demonstrated competence as shown by tests covering in all of
8 the following core areas: reading, language arts, literacy,
9 mathematics, science, and social studies.

10 Sec. 2. Section 259A.2, Code 2017, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 **259A.2 Age Application requirements.**

13 1. Every applicant must shall have attained the age of
14 eighteen years, be a nonhigh have not graduated from high
15 school graduate, and not be currently enrolled in a secondary
16 school. However, an

17 2. An applicant is not eligible for the a high school
18 equivalency diploma until after the class in which the
19 applicant was enrolled has graduated from high school.

20 3. Application shall be made to a high school equivalency
21 program or testing center approved by the department of
22 education, accompanied by an application fee in an amount
23 prescribed by the department.

24 4. The test Test scores shall be forwarded by the scorer of
25 the test to the department of education.

26 5. Evidence that an applicant demonstrates competence as
27 required under section 259A.1 shall be made available to the
28 department of education by the high school equivalency program
29 for verification purposes.

30 Sec. 3. Section 259A.3, Code 2017, is amended to read as
31 follows:

32 **259A.3 Notice and fee.**

33 Any applicant who has ~~achieved~~ demonstrated competence in
34 the minimum passing core areas under standards as established
35 by the department, and approved adopted by the state board of

1 education pursuant to section 259A.5, shall be issued a high
2 school equivalency diploma by the department of education upon
3 payment of an additional amount determined in rules adopted by
4 the state board of education to cover the actual costs of the
5 production and distribution of the diploma. The state board of
6 education may also by rule establish a fee for the issuance or
7 verification of a transcript which shall be based on the actual
8 costs of the production or verification of a transcript.

9 Sec. 4. Section 259A.5, Code 2017, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 **259A.5 Rules — duties.**

12 1. The director of the department of education shall ~~adopt~~
13 ~~tests~~ prescribe assessments, definitions of terms, and forms
14 and resources as necessary for the administration of this
15 chapter.

16 2. The state board of education shall adopt rules under
17 chapter 17A to carry out this chapter. Any rules adopted
18 relating to demonstrations of competence for purposes of this
19 chapter shall require such demonstrations to be equivalent
20 to or of greater rigor than those required for high school
21 graduation, and such demonstrations shall include but are
22 not limited to a test battery, credit-based measures, and
23 attainment of other academic credentials.

24 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
25 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.